

# Frequently Asked Questions

## *Fact Sheet of the Kentucky Underground Storage Tank Program*

**What is a UST?** An underground storage tank or underground storage tank system is one or a combination of stationary devices, including underground pipes connected to the devices, which are designed to contain an accumulation of petroleum, the volume of which, including the volume of underground pipes, is 10 percent or more beneath the surface of the ground. If a storage tank or storage tank system meets this definition, it is considered a regulated UST.

**What is Petroleum?** Petroleum is defined as crude oil or any fraction thereof that is liquid at standard conditions of temperature and pressure. The term includes, but is not limited to, petroleum and petroleum-based substances comprised of a complex blend of hydrocarbons derived from crude oil through processes of separation, conversion, upgrading and finishing, such as motor fuels, jet fuels, distillate fuel oils, residual fuel oils, lubricants, petroleum solvents and used oils.

**What tanks aren't regulated by the USTB?** Refer to the Exempt Tanks Chart on the USTB Registration and Fees Web page to see which agency may regulate these other tanks. Note that exempt tank systems may need to be registered with another agency.

**What about Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs)?** The installation, repair, operation and maintenance of ASTs are regulated by the State Fire Marshal's Office. That office may be reached at 502-564-3626. The Division of Waste Management's Superfund Branch, Petroleum Cleanup Section, regulates releases and spills from ASTs. That office may be reached at 502-564-6716.

**Can I purchase a copy of a list of leaking UST facilities in Kentucky?** No and yes. A separate list of leaking UST facilities is not maintained. However, the USTB maintains a list of registered facilities. This list is called the statewide database report and is available for a fee of \$34.25. To obtain this report, an Open Records Request Form must be submitted to the USTB stating that you want the statewide database report. Upon receipt of the signed open records request form and your payment, the database will be queried and a report will be generated. As with any open records request, the USTB has 72 hours to respond to the request. However, the information cannot be released until payment is received.

**How can I tell if a UST is leaking?** There are several warning signs of leaks from USTs or piping. Unusually strong petroleum vapors, dying vegetation near the tank and erratic equipment operation (unexplained presence of water in the tank) are all indicators of a possible release. Tanks that seem to require more fuel than they are using or experience a sudden loss of product may also be leaking.

**Is financial assistance available for owners and operators?** The Petroleum Storage Tank Environmental Assurance Fund (PSTEAF) is available for financial assistance to qualified facilities. For all questions concerning eligibility, requirements, availability of funds or other financial and reimbursement questions, please contact the USTB.

*The Kentucky Underground Storage Tank Branch (USTB) is a state agency within the Division of Waste Management of the Department for Environmental Protection. This agency's mission is to provide for the prevention, abatement and control of contaminants from regulated underground storage tanks (USTs) that may threaten human health, safety and the environment. The USTB regulates the registration, compliance, closure, inspections and corrective actions of UST systems.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## *Fact Sheet of the Kentucky Underground Storage Tank Program*

**What if I have a release or suspect a release?** Report a release or a suspected release immediately by calling the Environmental Response Team at 800-928-2380. In accordance with 401 KAR 42:060, KRS 224.01-400 and KRS 224.60-105, UST owners and operators are required to report and clean up releases or suspected releases of regulated substances. Under these provisions, certain actions are required in response to releases or suspected releases of regulated petroleum products. These actions consist of: 1) immediate notification of a release; 2) written follow-up report; 3) characterization; 4) corrective action; and 5) other required actions. Any spill, leak, discharge, dump, overfill or other "release" of a substance regulated by the UST program in excess of a reportable quantity\* or which meets the criteria specified by the regulations must be reported immediately. *\*Note: A suspected or confirmed UST system release of any amount, or a suspected confirmed aboveground release such as a spill or overfill of petroleum product(s) in excess of 25 gallons shall be reported immediately to the Environmental Response Team. Any aboveground release such as a spill or overfill less than 25 gallons that cannot be cleaned up within 24 hours shall be reported to the Emergency Response Team at 800-928-2380.*

**What about surface releases and spills?** Surface releases and spills\* of petroleum products at UST facilities (or anywhere else in Kentucky) are regulated by the Division of Waste Management's Superfund Branch, Petroleum Cleanup Section. They may be reached at 502-564-6716. *\*Note: A suspected or confirmed UST system release of any amount, or a suspected confirmed aboveground release such as a spill or overfill of petroleum product(s) in excess of 25 gallons shall be reported immediately to the Environmental Response Team. Any aboveground release such as a spill or overfill less than 25 gallons that cannot be cleaned up within 24 hours shall be reported to the Emergency Response Team at 800-928-2380.*

**Can you direct me to other Web sites with more information?** Absolutely. Here are some that we have selected. Please contact us if you don't find what you need.

**American Petroleum Institute (API)**, <http://api-ec.api.org>  
Information about oil and gasoline for both the consumer and marketer.

**New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC)**, [www.neiwpcc.org](http://www.neiwpcc.org)  
This commission provides environmental information and has a monthly publication entitled "L.U.S.T. LINE."

**Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI)**, [www.pei.org](http://www.pei.org)  
The Petroleum Equipment Institute is a trade association for companies involved in the petroleum marketing and liquid handling equipment industry.

**Steel Tank Institute (STI)**, [www.steeltank.com](http://www.steeltank.com)  
Steel Tank Institute has training, tank calculation software and numerous other resources for members of the petroleum marketing industry.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)  
This is the Web page for the EPA with environmental management topics as well as links to regional offices and contact numbers.

**EPA's Office of the Underground Storage Tanks (OUST)**, [www.epa.gov/oust](http://www.epa.gov/oust)  
Accurate and frequently updated information relevant to the federal UST program.

*The Kentucky Underground Storage Tank Branch (USTB) is a state agency within the Division of Waste Management of the Department for Environmental Protection. This agency's mission is to provide for the prevention, abatement and control of contaminants from regulated underground storage tanks (USTs) that may threaten human health, safety and the environment. The USTB regulates the registration, compliance, closure, inspections and corrective actions of UST systems.*